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LATE ADDENDUM FOR LAOS BRIEFING

- A. Info received this morning indicates the revolutionary committee is seeking to create public impression that a settlement is near at hand.
- B. Vientiane radio has announced that rebel delegation went to Luang Prabang to present proposals for settlement, which they claim Somsanith accepted. Not clear whether Phoumi has accepted them, but other reports indicate his approval being sought by Somsanith.
- C. Somsanith has refused rebel invitation come to Vientiane, however, pleading unfinished business connection funeral preparations for late king. This clearly subterfuge and indicates government will not expose itself to arrest by revolutionaries until settlement firmly nailed down.
- D. Proposed settlement seems to involve resignation Somsanith government, designation Souvanna Phouma form broadly based coalition government in which CDNI representation will be considerably reduced.
- E. Such settlement would be legal and tidy, but would give rebels much of what they were after: i.e., more neutral foreign policy, possible talks with Pathet Lao, and removal hated Foreign Minister Khamphan Panya and downgrading of Phoumi.

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